

To the FCC

Media in this "democratic" country has a credibility problem because of actions such as Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force stations to air an unsubstantiated accusation about a presidential candidate and call it "programming." It is propaganda such as that seen in many other countries that we criticize for their lack of freedom of the press. If you allow Sinclair to do this you are saying to the American public that corporations with money and power can control what we see on our TV. This is especially dangerous and I would assert even contrary to our constitution. The fact that this propaganda is blatantly untrue and slanderous only a short time before such a controversial election is even greater cause for concern.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.